THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Madhya Pradesh Flying Club (MPFC), situated at Indore, has a branch at Bhopal. In addition, there is a private flying institute at Indore known as UDAN Research & Flying Institute Pvt. Ltd. The number of aircraft owned by MPFC is 6. The private institute owns 4 aircraft.

(c) A total number of 687 and 92 pupil pilots have been trained by MPFC, Indore (including its branch) and UDAN Research & Flying Institute Pvt. Ltd. respectively during the last three years.

(d) The MPFC charges Rs. 701 and Rs. 570 per hour for training on Cessna and Pushpak aircraft respectively upto Private Pilot Licence (PPL). The fue charged after PPL upto Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) is Rs. 1800 and Rs. 1375 per hour respectively on these aircraft. The UDAN Research & Flying Institute charges Rs. 6.50 lakhs in the form of package from Student Pilot Licence to CPL.

(e) to (g) Subsidy is provided by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to MPFC upto PPL and subsequent flying for renewal of PPL/CPL at the rates of Rs. 701 and Rs. 570 for Cessna and Pushpak aircraft respectively. No subsidy is provided to the private Institute.

Gauge Conversion

4195. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the conversion of Palakkad-Pollachi metre gauge line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This line is not included in the first phase of the Action Plan taken up under project Uniguage.

Completion of Projects in Abroad

4196. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects in foreign countries completed by the Indian Railways during 1996;

(b) the number of projects in hand at present;

(c) whether any new works have been awarded or negotiations are going on for railway projects in foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total foreign exchange earned by rail contracts in foreign countries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Indian Railways execute projects in foreign countries through its PSUs like IRCON & RITES. The projects completed during 1996 by RITES are 25 and by IRCON are 05.

(b) At present, RITES has 25 and IRCON has 13 projects in hand in foreign countries.

(c) and (d) Recently, IRCON has secured 3 projects in Malaysia, 1 in Nepal and negotiation is going on for 1 project in Burkina Faso. RITES is continuing negotiations for 38 foreign projects.

(e) The details of foreign exchange earned during the last three years as under :

(Fig. in millions of Rs.)

Year	Rites	Ircon	Total
1993-94	78.45	291	369.45
1994-95	116.70	329	445.70
1995-96	235.49	1888	2122.49
		Total	2937.64

Introduction of Train between Howrah and Haldia

4197. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation for introduction of a superfast train between Howrah and Haldia and construction of double line from Panskura to Haldia;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since taken any decision in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some representations have been received in this regard. However, no representations have been received for construction of double line between Haldia and Panskura.

(b) to (d) The proposal for a superfast train was examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints. However, Howrah and Haldia are connected by 2 pairs of EMU locals.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Liluah Railway Quarters

4198. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute drinking water problem in Liluah Railway quarters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to inadequate sanitation, residents of these quarters are suffering for a long time;

(d) if so, whether nothing has been done even after drawing the attention of Railway Authorities; and

(e) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government to solve drinking water and sanitation problem at Liluah Railway quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total yield of water from the existing sources of the Railway are insufficient to meet the present day requirement of water at Liluah.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To solve the problem of shortage of water, a work of provision of 1.4 MGD river based water treatment plant has already been taken up.

Air Conditioned Three Tier Sleeper Coaches in Long Distance Trains

4199. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have planned to provide air conditioned three tier sleeper coaches in some long distance trains;

(b) if so, which pairs of trains alongwith the names of the trains passing through Balasad railway station are proposed to be provided with three tier air conditioned sleeper coaches before March 31, 1997;

(c) whether 2815-2816 Puri Express, 8475-8476 Neelachal Express, 8477-8478 Utkal Kalinga Express are also proposed to be provided with A.C. three tier sleeper coaches till then; and

(d) if not, the time by which the New Delhi-Puri bound trains are likely to be provided with A.C.three tier sleeper coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presumably the reference is towards Balasore.

3 pairs of Expresses stopping at Balasore viz. 2801/2802 Purshottam Express, 2841/2842 Coromandal Express and 6519/6520 Express have already been provided with A.C. 3 tier sleeper accommodation so far.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A.C. 3 tier coach is equipped with air brake whereas these trains are running on vacuum brake. Conversion of long distance trains into air brake is being done in a phased manner and conversion of these trains will also be considered alongwith similar demands in later years.

Catering Services in South bound Long route trains

4200. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the catering services in the South bound long route trains were awarded to private parties;

(b) if so, whether the quality of food deteriorating considerably and they are not providing comfortable services;

(c) if so, whether the passengers have made complaints;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have made any check on the quality of food and services; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However 43 complaints were received. Fine has been imposed in 8 cases and in 19 cases warning has been issued.

(e) and (f) Regular checks are conducted by the Railway Administration and suitable remedial/preventive action is taken. During 1995-96, 388 checks were conducted by Southern Railway and suitable action against the defaulting licencees.

Modernisation of Railway Stations

4201. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the railway stations in West Bengal where expansion/renovation and modernisation were done during the last three years; and

(b) the names of those stations where such work is proposed to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Expansion/renovation/modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken on a need based programme as warranted by growth in traffic depending upon the overall availability of funds and relative priorities of different stations. State-wise details of stations in this regard are not maintained. Works of modernisation/renovation etc. are included in Railways annual works programme every year depending on the availability of funds.